

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has now rejected Claims 1, 2, 11, 13-15 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent 6,694,570). Additionally, it is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner now finds allowable subject matter in Claims 3-10, 12, 16-20 and 24-30.

Regarding the rejections of independent Claims 1, 15 and 21 under §102(e), the Examiner states that Chen discloses all of the features of the claims. Chen discloses a hinge device for a foldable electronic apparatus.

The first hinge housings recited in Claims 1, 15 and 21 have a fixing portion, a fixing surface or a fixing groove, respectively. In addition, Claims 1, 15 and 21 recite an opening adapted to expose the fixing portion in a direction of the second rotation axis (Claim 1), an opening adapted to expose the fixing surface perpendicular to the first rotation axis (Claim 15), or an opening adapted to expose the fixing groove in a direction of the second rotation axis (Claim 21).


The Examiner is citing elements 377 of FIG. 5 of Chen to specifically anticipate the above-recited openings. The opening of Claim 1 is adapted to expose the fixing portion in a direction of the second rotation axis; the opening of Claim 15 is adapted to expose the fixing surface perpendicular to the first rotation axis; and the opening of Claim 21 is adapted to expose the fixing groove in a direction of the second rotation axis. The openings 377 of Chen are a pair of ball holes that are registered with ball grooves 237. A pair of ball holes registered with ball grooves cannot anticipate an opening adapted to expose the fixing portion in a direction of the second rotation axis of Claim 1, an opening adapted to expose the fixing surface perpendicular to the first rotation axis of Claim 15, or an opening adapted to expose the fixing groove in a direction of the second rotation axis of Claim 21.

Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 11, 13-15 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 15 and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-14, 16-20 and 22-30, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-14, 16-20 and 22-30 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-30, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul J. Farrell

Reg. No. 33,494

Attorney for Applicant

THE FARRELL LAW FIRM
333 Earle Ovington Blvd., Suite 701
Uniondale, New York 11553
Tel: (516) 228-3565
Fax: (516) 228-8475

PJF/MJM/dr